

SAN JOAQUIN DESERT HILLS NEWSLETTER

BLM to Amend Panoche–Coalinga Land Use Plan!



Silver Creek, San Benito County.

The U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Hollister Field Office,

formally invites you to participate in the 30-day public "scoping" period for the Panoche-Coalinga Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment and Environmental Assessment (EA) to address management of the public lands in southern San Benito and western Fresno counties.

The public "scoping" period allows people that are potentially affected by the project an opportunity to express their views and concerns.

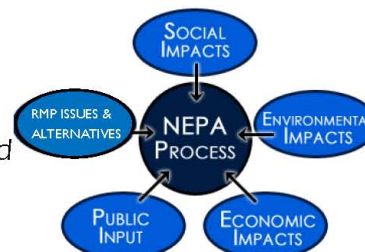
Additional objectives include: identifying interested parties; identifying issues to be addressed; and establishing a public record to ensure transparency in the BLM's decision-making process.

Why is a RMP Amendment/EA Needed?

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 requires BLM to prepare RMP's to allocate use of public lands and identify actions to manage resources.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the EA will identify potential impacts that implementation of the RMP Amendment could have on the environment and

identify appropriate measures to mitigate those impacts.



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Preliminary Issues & Management Concerns:

- Lands & Realty
- Special Area Designations
- Recovery of San Joaquin Valley Upland Species
- Natural & Cultural Resource Protection
- Recreation
- Travel Management
- Other issues raised during public scoping period?

**California's Public Lands:
Use, Share, Appreciate**



Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

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What are the steps in the planning process?

The RMP Amendment/EA process includes these basic steps: 1) identify issues through public scoping, 2) develop planning criteria, 3) gather best available information, 4) formulate alternatives, 5) analyze potential effects of the alternatives, 6) select the preferred alternative, 7) publish the Draft RMP Amendment and EA for public review and comments, 8) publish Proposed RMP and Final EA, 9) Resolve public protest and publish Record of Decision.



Peppergass Flat, Fresno County.

How Can You Participate?

Two public scoping meetings will be held in San Benito and Fresno counties to discuss the plan. The time and location of the public meetings are:

October 9, 2012:

5:30 – 7:30 PM
Veteran's Memorial Hall
649 San Benito Street
Hollister, CA 95023

October 11, 2012:

Panoche School
5:30–7:30 PM
31441 Panoche Road
Paicines, CA 95043

Comments may be submitted verbally during public scoping workshops, by email, or in writing to the Hollister Field Office, 20 Hamilton Court, Hollister, CA 95023; fax: (831) 630-5055; or e-mail: BLM_CA_Hollister_RMP@blm.gov

All comments must be received no later than 30 days after the last public meeting.

To be added to our mailing list, contact Sky Murphy: telephone (831) 630-5039; or email : Sky_Murphy@blm.gov